



**Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona**

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PHOENIX WOMAN SENTENCED TO 15 MONTHS PRISON FOR CHILD SMUGGLING

TUCSON –The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, announced that on June 23, 2005, Diana Correa, 27 years old, of Phoenix, Arizona, was sentenced to 15 months prison, by United States District Judge Frank R. Zapata, in Tucson.

On September 1, 2004, Diana Correa attempted to enter the United States at the port of entry in Nogales, Arizona. She presented herself for entry at the pedestrian lane accompanied by two minors ages 2 and 4. The 4 year-old boy was later determined to be an illegal alien. Diana Correa claimed that the children were her own, that they were U.S. citizens, and then presented U.S. birth certificates for both. She stated that she was taking her children home to Tempe, Arizona, after picking them up from their grandmother's home in Mexico.

In secondary inspection, the 4 year-old boy gave the inspectors his true name as well as the true name of his little sister. Diana Correa admitted that she was not related to the children and that she had used her own children's birth certificate to try to smuggle the minors into the United States. She said that an unknown person made the arrangements with her and the mother of the children for the children to be transported into the United States. Diana Correa said that she was instructed to pick up the minors at a hotel in Mexico from an unknown female and to then take the minors to Phoenix where she was to deliver them to their mother who lives in Mesa, Arizona. She was to be paid \$500.00 by the mother.

Diana Correa had entered a plea of guilty on April 15, 2005, to a charge of conspiracy to transport an illegal alien in violation of Title 8, United States Code, Sections 1324(a)(1)(A)(ii), 1324(a)(1)(A)(i), and 1324(a)(1)(B)(i), a felony.

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Diana Correa was 8 months pregnant with her sixth child at the time of sentencing. She had used her own children's U.S. birth certificates to facilitate entry of the minors into the United States.

The investigation in this case was conducted by Customs and Bureau Protection.

The prosecution was handled by Raquel Arellano, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson.

CASE NUMBER: CR-04-19995-TUC-FRZ
RELEASE NUMBER: 2005-120

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